

## **Food Policy Council Minutes**

**5/21/2014**

Member in attendance: Fred Kaskowitz, Christine Stafstrom, Esperina Baptista Stubblefield, Kristin DuBay-Horton, Faith Lorde, Christina B Smith, Madison Wierzel and Marie Desances.

FPC reviewed the past meeting minutes. Christine moved to approve them, and Esperina seconded it. The group approved unanimously.

The meeting started at 6:10 and everyone introduced themselves.

Community garden was addressed by Christina. She spoke about having a mailbox at each site with information inside as to who the captain is? How to volunteer? And more. She mentioned visiting the Common Ground seeding sale and spoke to individuals who works there. "I think it might be good idea to adopt some of the paid programming activities they organize as one way of having funds to execute our ideas "says Christina. She also feels that the course that they offer is interesting, useful and much needed. Also hoping to tie-in the libraries, who have gardening programs and are starting a seed landing library to work collaboratively with them.

A gardening packet was put together by University of Connecticut (UCONN). Christina intends on summarizing the packet to make it more easy reading.

Kristin suggested connecting Blumenthal's office with "GetHealthyCT "to help with understanding and familiarize them with the organization.

The "Food Action Plan" was discussed Kristin decided noted that it was being written into one voice and will be shared with FPC members before the next meeting.

Christina Smith mentioned adding basic documents pertaining to gardening, on the Food Policy Council website.

Maggie- Gave an update on the Parent Committee meeting at the Nutrition Center. She spoke about 14,000 students gets fed daily. The Bridgeport Elementary menu was passed around, which covers the children's daily nutrition. Maggie spoke about working collaboratively with the Nutrition Center to help implement healthy eating behaviors to benefit children in Bridgeport.

Madison spoke about farm to school pilot launching this fall, and agreed to work collaboratively with the Food Policy Council to improve school nutrition.

Marie-Spoke about the Healthy Corner Store initiative. The HCSI committee would like to start hiring contractors to complete the work. The estimated time for the three stores to be completed is 06/19/2014. She also spoke about asking for donations from Home Depot and other Home improvement stores in order to complete the work.

Fred- Suggests taken unused fruits and vegetables to can and possibly donate them to food pantries.

Christine Stafstrom- Suggests the next meeting being more organized and the agenda should reflect the speakers.

The meeting ended at 7:27. The next scheduled meeting will be on June 18<sup>th</sup> 2014.